

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 02628 280318Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 USSS-00 /031 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 869

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 2628

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, ASEC, MX

SUBJECT: PATTERSON KIDNAPPING; PROPOSED STATEMENT BY CONSUL
GENERAL YELTON

1. THE FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PROPOSED STATEMENT TO BE
ISSUED MORNING OF MARCH 28 BY CONSUL GENERAL ELMER YELTON
IN HERMOSILLO. IT HAS BEEN WORKED OUT WITH CLOSE PARTICIPATION
OF MRS. ANDRA PATTERSON WHO DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT STATEMENT
NEEDS TO BE CLEARED WITH FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE US. AMBASSADOR
AND TASK FORCE MEMBERS AT EMBASSY AND IN HERMOSILLO STRONGLY
RECOMMEND STATEMENT BE ISSUED.

2. IN PRESENTING STATEMENT, CONSUL GENERAL YELTON WOULD
PREFACE REMARKS BY NOTING THAT, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH
MRS. PATTERSON, HE HAD ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE. HE WOULD READ
STATEMENT TO PRESS AFD HAND OUT WRITTEN COPIES TO
ENSURE THERE WERE NO NOTETAKING ERRORS. MRS. PATTERSON
WOULD NOT BE PRESENT IN INTEREST OF SPARING HER CONFRONTA-
TION WITH PRESS AT THIS TIME.

3. TEXT OF STATEMENT AS FOLLOWS:

"MR. JOHN PATTERSON, WHO HAS SERVED AS VICE CONSUL IN
CHARGE OF COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS AT THE UNITED STATES CONSULATE
GENERAL IN HERMOSILLO, MEXICO, SINCE JANUARY 1974, WAS
LAST SEEN LEAVING THE CONSULATE GENERAL AT APPROXIMATELY
10:50 A.M. ON MARCH 22, 1974. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED AT THAT
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 02628 280318Z

TIME BY AN UNIDENTIFIED MAN AND WAS BELIEVED TO BE ON HIS

WAY TO MEET AN OFFICIAL OF THE COMMITTEE FOR LIVESTOCK PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT.

AT APPROXIMATELY 2:00 P.M., WHEN THE CONSULATE GENERAL REOPENED FOR BUSINESS, A RANSOM NOTE WAS FOUND IN THE DOOR. THE U.S. CONSULAR VEHICLE IN WHICH MR. PATTERSON LEFT THE CONSULATE SUBSEQUENTLY WAS DISCOVERED ABANDONED ON THE NORTHERN OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY.

MR. PATTERSON IS MARRIED. HIS WIFE HAS MADE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN THE RANSOM NOTE. IN THE INTEREST OF HIS SAFETY, IT WAS CONSIDERED IMPRUDENT TO DISCLOSE THE FACT OF MR. PATTERSON'S DISAPPEARANCE OR ANY FURTHER DETAILS. MRS. PATTERSON HAS NOT YET BEEN CONTACTED BY THE PERSONS HOLDING HER HUSBAND.

IN THEIR DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL, OFFICIALS ARE IN CONTINUOUS CONTACT WITH MRS. PATTERSON AND MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY."

4. EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE ADVANCE COPY OF TEXT TO GOM AS MATTER OF COURTESY. TASK FORCE HERMOSILLO PREPARING SPANISH-LANGUAGE TRANSLATION.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL IN TIME FOR MID-MORNING RELEASE ON MARCH 28 IN HERMOSILLO.
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